

## UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS

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JUNE 25, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. CARNAHAN, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 178]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 178) to authorize an appropriation to provide for certain costs of United States participation in the International Bureau for the Publication of Customs Tariffs, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

#### PURPOSE

The resolution authorizes the appropriation of \$44,975 to the Department of State for payment by the United States of certain contributions for the support of the International Bureau for the Publication of Customs Tariffs for the period April 1, 1950, through June 30, 1957. The United States has been making contributions to this organization since 1890. This legislation is necessary to permit the United States to make an increased contribution for the fiscal year 1957 and on the basis of equity to pay an increased assessment for the fiscal years 1951 through 1956.

#### FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS

This organization was founded in 1890 by the United States and 40 other countries. Its function is to translate and publish the customs tariffs, laws, and regulations of various countries for dissemination to the member governments. These translations are used by the various branches of the Government concerned with foreign tariff

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including the Department of Commerce which answers thousands of inquiries each year from American firms concerning the cost of getting United States products into various foreign markets.

### COST TO THE UNITED STATES

Member nations are grouped for assessment purposes into seven categories based on the value of their international trade. The United States belongs to the first class and since 1890 has been paying \$2,333 per year. The rise in certain cost factors together with the increased workload which has resulted from postwar tariff negotiations has made necessary a larger budget for the organization.

In 1949 a new schedule of contributions was worked out which provided for a United States payment of \$8,658 per year. The protocol approving the new payment arrangements was ratified by the United States Senate on January 25, 1956, by a vote of 84 to 0.

This resolution authorizes an appropriation to pay the increased contribution for fiscal 1957 and to pay the increased amount for the period since April 1, 1950, between the time the protocol was agreed to and its ratification by the United States.

The committee was informed that the cost to the United States if such translations were made by the United States Government for its own use would exceed \$100,000 per year.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The United States obtains important services from the International Bureau for the Publication of Customs Tariffs at a cost of \$8,658 per year. The committee recommends the approval of this resolution.